

VILLA PHILBROOK
(Philbrook Museum of Art)
(Waite Phillips Mansion)
2727 South Rockford Road
Tulsa
Tulsa
Oklahoma

HALS OK-4
OK-4

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

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HALS NO. OK-4

Location: 2727 South Rockford Road, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma
Lat: 36.12454 Long: -95.97126

Significance: Villa Philbrook, built during the roaring 20s, was the home of Waite and Genevieve Phillips. Waite, an Oklahoma oilman and cofounder of the Phillips Petroleum Company, and Genevieve left their estate along with an endowment for maintaining it to the City of Tulsa in 1938 with the stipulation that the site become an art museum. Today, the estate is an important cultural and historical Tulsa landmark that represents the opulence and flamboyance that characterized the 1920s and the wealth created in Oklahoma by oil during the era.

History: Situated on a 23 acre site, the mansion, designed by Edward Buehler Delk of Kansas City, Missouri, is surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens. The site was designed by the landscape architecture firm Hare and Hare out of Kansas City, Missouri, and the planting design was implemented by Philip Thomas, a local landscape contractor. A product of the Eclectic Period, the 72-room mansion and the immediate rear garden with its water feature cascade is in the Italian Renaissance Style, while the overall site is in the Romantic Naturalistic Style.

The home and surrounding gardens were built from 1926 to 1927, and cost, at the time of construction, \$1,190,245. The water feature in the garden off the rear terrace was modeled after a similar cascades at Villa Lante, a famous Italian estate near Rome, Italy designed by Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola in 1566. The estate includes a combination of formal and natural gardens that exhibit native Oklahoma plant species. In addition, fountains, cascades, pools, stone benches, and a variety of pathways and bridges dot the landscape. In 2002, the Tulsa-based landscape architecture firm Howell & Vancuren generated plans for the renovation of the gardens designed by Hare and Hare and completed the unfinished garden at the summer house at a cost of approximately \$7 million. The renovation project was completed in 2004.

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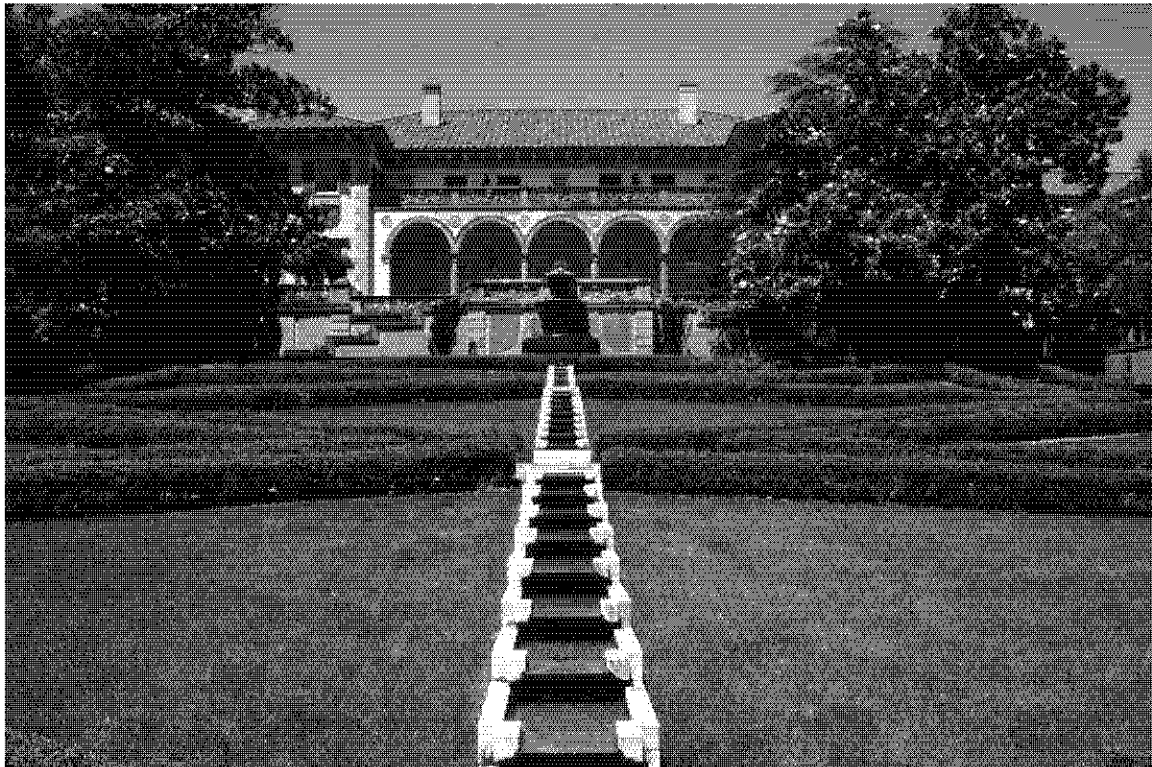
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Historian: Steve Eilers, January 27, 2009
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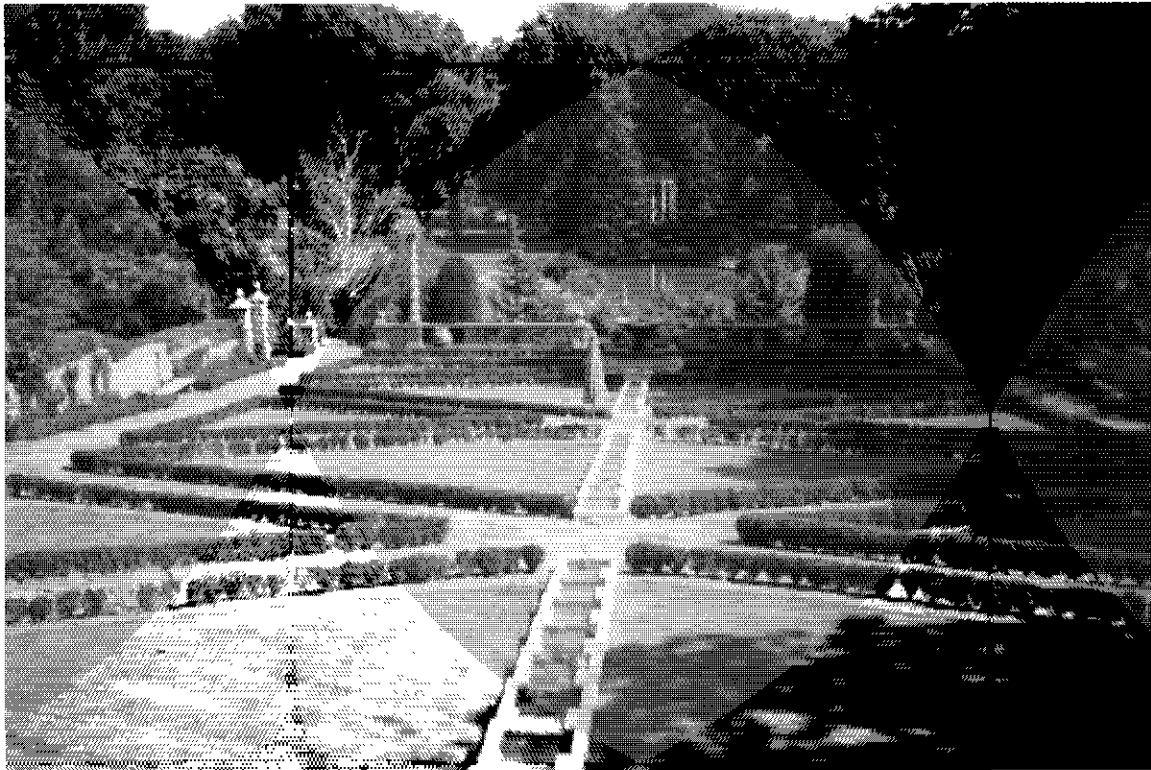
Dr. Charles Leider
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Back of House (National Register Properties in Oklahoma website:
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